

Remarks

I. Status of Claims

Without prejudice, the claims have been amended to address a number of informalities. Specifically, Claims 1-3 and 22 have been amended to recite “said plurality of hash values” rather than “said hash values.” Claim 1 has also been amended to add the step of “establishing a connection” according to the Examiner’s suggestion. Claim 12 has been amended to include the step of verifying the digital certificate as recited in the second step of Claim 1. Claim 57 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112 because the term “said hash values” should recite “said plurality of has values.” The Examiner also suggested amending Claim 24 as Claim 2 was amended previously. In reply, applicants have amended the claims as suggested.

III. Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, the claim has been cancelled to facilitate prosecution.

The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-6 and 50-61 under 35 USC §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. However, the Examiner indicated that amending the claim to add the step of establishing the connection would overcome this rejection. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

IV Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in Claim 1-6, 22, 24, 29-30 and 50-61. Applicants have amended the claims according to the Examiner's suggestions, and thus submit that the claims, as currently presented, are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicants have amended Claim 14 to include the step of verifying the digital certificate as set forth in Claim 1. Because the subject matter of Claim 14 includes that of Claim 1, which was found to have allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that Claim 14 is now too in condition for allowance.

In light of the above remarks, an early and favorable response is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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